

SENATE BILL 447
By McNally

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49
and Title 63, relative to nursing scholarships.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-702, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

49-4-702

(a) The Tennessee student assistance corporation shall administer a scholarship program for graduate students in professional nursing under the following terms and conditions:

(1) Any resident of Tennessee who is accepted for enrollment in a master's degree program in nursing or any resident with a master's degree in nursing who is accepted for enrollment in a doctoral degree program in nursing or a related field that would qualify the person to become a teacher, administrator or supervisor in a nursing faculty position or in a clinical practice in Tennessee may apply to the corporation to attend an approved graduate school of nursing or an approved doctoral program in nursing or a related field in Tennessee.

(2) The amount of the scholarship shall be established by the corporation not to exceed the cost of attendance for an academic year for up to a maximum of four (4) years.

(3) Preference in awarding the scholarships shall be given to persons who plan to enter faculty or administrative positions in Tennessee immediately upon completion of their master's or doctoral degree program.

(b) The Tennessee student assistance corporation, in conjunction with the Tennessee board of nursing, is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the management of the program and the selection of recipients, taking into consideration such factors as academic record of the applicant and shortage areas in the nursing force in Tennessee.

(c) The Tennessee student assistance corporation may receive contributions from outside sources for funding this program under conditions prescribed by the corporation, with the understanding that the funds will be used solely for awards under this section and unused funds shall not revert to the general fund, but shall be carried forward for future student awards.

(d) Funding from the State of Tennessee shall not revert to the general fund but shall be carried forward for future student awards. There is hereby established a general fund reserve to be allocated by the general appropriations act which shall be known as the "graduate professional nursing scholarship fund." Moneys from the fund may be expended to fund activities authorized by this section. Any revenues deposited in this reserve shall remain in the reserve until expended for purposes consistent with this section, and shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30. Any excess revenues on interest earned by such revenues shall not revert on any June 30, but shall remain available for appropriation in subsequent fiscal years. Any appropriation from such reserve shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30, but shall remain available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years.

(e) This program shall be available for participants beginning July 1, 2005 after rules have been promulgated. The availability of scholarships shall be subject to the appropriation of funds in each year's general appropriations act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

